



# Budget Transparency Bill Timeline

*A victory for transparency and accountability*

## **January 19, 2006 – Wall Street Journal Op-Ed**

House Majority Whip Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) pens an opinion-editorial in the *Wall Street Journal* highlighting the need for a public database of all receiving federal grants.

## **March 30, 2006 – Legislation Introduced in the House**

House Majority Whip Roy Blunt and Government Reform Chairman Tom Davis (R-Va.) introduce H.R. 5060 that would increase accountability and transparency by establishing a public database to track federal grants.

## **April 6, 2006 – Legislation Introduced in the Senate**

U.S. Senators Tom Coburn, M.D. (R-Okla.) and Barack Obama (D-Ill.) introduce S. 2590 that would publicly disclose all recipients of federal funding and financial assistance.

## **June 21, 2006 – House Passage**

H.R. 5060 passes in the House unanimously.

## **July 18, 2006 – Senate Committee Hearings Held**

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs holds a hearing on S. 2590.

## **July 27, 2006 – Senate Committee Passage**

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs reports out S. 2590.

## **August 2006 - Secret Hold Placed in the Senate**

Two Senators place a secret hold on the legislation.

## **August 2006 – The Blogosphere Jumps Into Action!**

Porkbusters.org, Suitably Flip and other bloggers begin calling each Senator's office to determine who placed the secret hold.

## **August 30, 2006 – Secret Holds Revealed**

As a result of the online community's outreach, the two secret holds are revealed: Senators Stevens and Byrd.

## **August 31, 2006 – One Hold Lifted**

Senator Byrd lifts his secret hold on S. 2590.

## **September 5, 2006 – Second Hold Lifted**

Senator Stevens lifts his secret hold on S. 2590.

## **September 7, 2006 – Senate Passage**

S. 2590 passes the Senate unanimously.

## **September 8, 2006 – House and Senate Agreement**

All the major principals in the House and Senate reach an agreement on the legislation.

**September 13, 2006 – Senate passes the Enrollment Correction**

The Senate passes the enrollment correction containing the House-Senate compromise agreement.

**September 13, 2006 – House passes the Compromise Legislation**

The House passes S. 2590 and the enrollment correction containing the House-Senate compromise agreement.

**September 26, 2006 – Signed into Law**

President Bush signs S. 2590 into law at the White House.